



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - December 5, 2003

- ***In the West***, widespread rain and snow showers are returning to the ***Pacific Coast States*** from ***central California northward***. The precipitation continues to aid ***Northwestern*** winter grains and boost high-elevation snow packs in the ***Cascades*** and ***Sierra Nevada***, but is maintaining excessively wet conditions in ***western Washington***.
- ***On the Plains***, cool, dry weather prevails, maintaining stress on the poorly established winter wheat crop. However, dry conditions favor final autumn fieldwork on the ***southern High Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, snowy weather across ***eastern portions of the region*** is halting final corn harvesting and hampering travel. Snow is heaviest across ***southern Lower Michigan*** and ***northern portions of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio***, while rain showers continue in parts of the ***Ohio Valley***.
- ***In the South***, wintry conditions are subsiding across the ***southern Mid-Atlantic region***, although some travel and electrical disruptions persist in the wake of yesterday's snow, sleet, and freezing rain. Elsewhere in the ***South***, cool, dry weather prevails.

Outlook: The first major winter storm of the season will impact the ***northern Mid-Atlantic and Northeast*** into Saturday. A mixture of snow, sleet, and rain will change over to all snow in the ***Mid-Atlantic*** on Friday night as a coastal storm develops. On Saturday, heavy snow and strong winds will spread into ***New England*** as the coastal storm progresses northeast. Elsewhere, dry, warmer weather will prevail across the ***Great Plains***, while rain and high-elevation snow moves from the ***Pacific Northwest*** into the ***intermountain West***. The 6- to 10-day outlook for December 10-14 features above-normal precipitation in the ***Pacific Northwest*** and from the ***Mississippi Valley*** to the ***East Coast***, while drier-than-normal conditions are expected across the ***Rockies and High Plains***. Above-normal temperatures are anticipated across the ***Northeast***, while below-normal temperatures are forecast for the ***southern third of the U.S.***

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)

Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>